


County Drought Contingency Planning

Implementing Executive Order B-37-16

June 20, 2017

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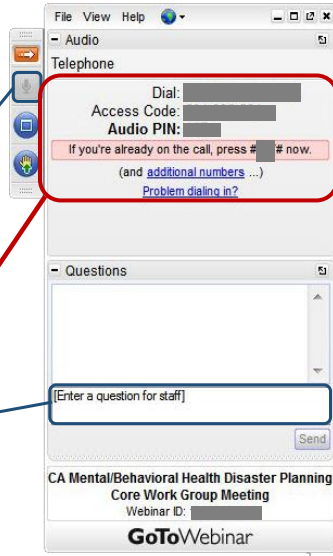

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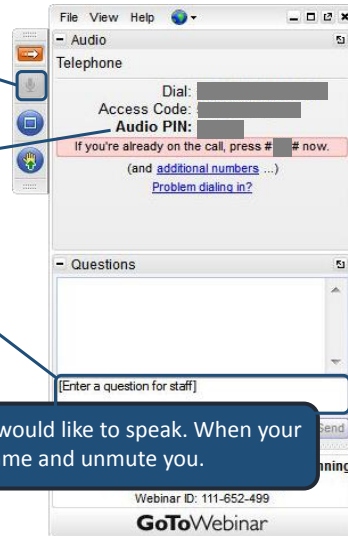
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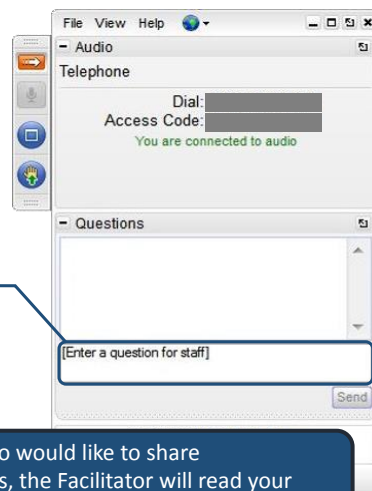


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Agenda Overview

- Overview of Community Water Center Report
 - *Drought Contingency Plans for Rural and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities in California*
- Overview of Proposed Draft Framework Elements
- Developing Appropriate Shortage Response Actions
- Wrap-Up and Next Steps



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CA Water Commission: Commissioned Study

Drought Contingency Plans – For Rural Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities in California

May 8, 2017

Prepared by: Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies; Environmental Governance and Justice Practicum


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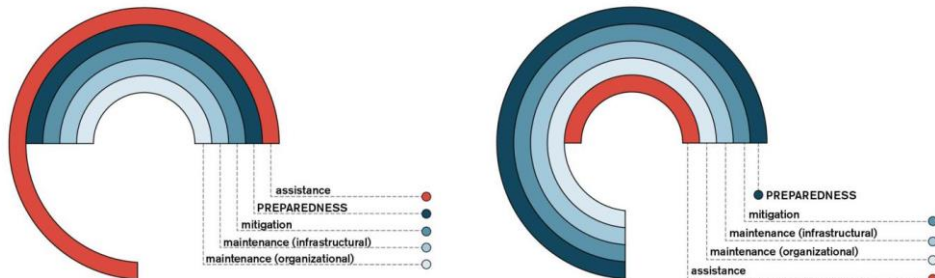
CWC Commissioned Study

Drought Contingency Plans – For Rural Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities in California (May 8, 2017)

- *Methodology: Analyze academic literature and 18 drought and water management plans, including:*
 - *Tribal drought contingency plans*
 - *Urban water management plans*
 - *Irrigation district management plans*
 - *County water shortage plans*
 - *State and regional drought contingency plans*



CWC Study (cont.): Shifting focus from “reaction” to “preparedness”



[Source: Figure 1 – CWC Study]



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CWC Study: Recommendations

Six criteria used for analysis and recommendations. Example recommendations include:

1. Pre-assessment – prioritize projects for disadvantaged communities; assign drought risk factors, consider cultural norms
2. Integration – coordinate with other plans; involve county health depts.; integrate with existing hazard mitigation plans
3. Communications – outline roles and responsibilities; use multiple comm. methods and account for varying education and languages
4. Public participation – consider timing, access and setting; two-way communications; public's handling of uncertainty
5. Review and update – carry-out a “drill”; update annually; address equity
6. Funding – create local fund reserves; shift funds to preparedness; pre-arrange NGO partnerships; consider equity in water shortage fees



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CWC Study: Conclusion

- “Incorporating drought contingency planning comprehensively across all planning documents and making it a requirement for county or district water management plans must be the next step toward moving from a reactive to a preventative paradigm.”



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Draft Framework

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Draft Framework

- EO#10: *"For areas not covered by a Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the Department shall work with counties to facilitate improved drought planning for small water suppliers and rural communities."*



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Draft Framework (cont.):

- Purpose: To demonstrate preparation, planning and response to water shortages:
 - Demonstrating drought preparedness coverage;
 - Assessing current drought vulnerability for all citizens;
 - Taking proactive actions to reduce drought vulnerability;
 - Improving availability and readiness of appropriate responses;
 - Communicating with citizens, state, and others;
 - Adaptively responding to conditions and refining assessment protocols, responses, and communications.



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Draft Framework (cont.):

- Each county should:
 - **Demonstrate planning coverage**
(Frequency: initial report, then periodic review/update)
 - **Assess current drought vulnerability**
(Frequency: initial risk determination, 5-year update)
 - **On-going drought risk assessment**
(Frequency: annually, or more frequently as conditions may dictate)
 - **Prepare response strategies and implementation plans**
(Frequency: initial actions and plan, followed by periodic update)
 - **Establish and implement reporting, coordination and communication protocols**
(Frequency: initial actions and plan, followed by periodic update)



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Draft Framework: Demonstrate Planning Coverage

- The county should demonstrate to the state and its citizenry that all citizens are covered by a drought contingency plan – whether that plan is prepared by the county or by another responsible party (e.g. water supplier). (Frequency: initial report, then periodic review/update):
 - Assess current drought planning coverage for potable water users that are:
 - Served by a public water system (publicly or privately owned)
 - Self-supplied
 - Describe how coverage will be assured within two years for any area not currently covered.



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Draft Framework: Assess Current Drought Vulnerability

- The county should make an initial assessment of drought vulnerability throughout the county, assigning risk factors that subsequently can be used for on-going analysis. This step may be facilitated by subdividing the county's geographic extent by various distinguishing factors, then focusing future analysis on regions with higher risk. (*Frequency: initial risk determination, 5-year update*)
 - Assessment procedures and timeframes
 - Initial risk assessment for entire county
 - Assessment and prioritization refinement (every 5 years)
 - Initial data collection and management
 - Identify data related to risk factors
 - Establish data collection and management protocols for any data not already collected by the county or otherwise readily available (see EO agencies metadata role).
 - Organize data for risk assessment



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Draft Framework: On-going Drought Risk Assessment

- (*Frequency: annually, or more frequently as conditions may dictate*)
 - **Recurrent assessment**
 - Define method
 - Perform assessment for priority regions
 - **Recurrent data collection and management**
 - Expand data related to risk factors (see initial data collection)
 - Develop additional data collection and management protocols



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Draft Framework: Prepare Response Strategies and Implementation Plans

(Frequency: initial actions and plan, followed by periodic update)

- Develop proactive strategies and actions to reduce drought-vulnerable citizenry
- Develop monitoring and tracking protocols with thresholds established to trigger staged responses based upon severity of drought
- Develop staged response strategies that correlate to severity of drought conditions, based upon results of on-going drought risk assessment for a particular boundary.
- Develop implementation plan
- Refine proactive and active-drought response strategies based upon adaptive understanding of local potable water supply and demand conditions



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Draft Framework: Establish and Implement Reporting, Coordination, and Communication Protocols

(Frequency: initial actions and plan, followed by periodic update)

- **Sufficiency reporting to EO agencies (*see EO roles and responsibilities*)**
 - Submit report demonstrating sufficient drought planning coverage (or path to achieve complete coverage in a reasonable time frame), and required elements of drought preparedness
- **Prepare and adopt a Drought Preparedness Plan**
 - Prepare plan documenting necessary elements (*see EO roles and responsibilities*) to demonstrate sufficiency
 - Community outreach during preparation plan
 - Demonstrate ability to implement proactive and active-drought response strategies
- **Local coordination and communications**
 - Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
 - Water suppliers
 - Self-supplied users
 - State and federal entities providing technical and financial assistance



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Draft Framework (cont.):

- **DWR potential assistance role**
 - **Establish compliance requirements**
 - Define required plan elements and submittal process
 - Aid with resolving implementing authority limits
 - **Provide technical and financial assistance**
 - Metadata conventions; Data collection, management, and accessibility
 - Vulnerability assessments (guidance for risk thresholds and assessment methods)
 - Proactive actions
 - Response measures
 - **Establish communication pathways with counties**
 - Drought risk alerts
 - Promote and facilitate assistance opportunities



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Response Strategies

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Response Strategies

- Ideally, most conditions would require no action beyond tracking, reporting and communication protocols. If tracked factors reach pre-defined thresholds, then staged response strategies would trigger (*see example workflow diagram with 3 stages*)
 - Stage 1 – initiate outreach and education and initiate first-tier programs, alert appropriate local, state and federal agencies and coordinate with local non-profit interests.
 - Stage 2 – expand outreach and education, initiate second-tier programs, and increase communications with state/federal resources.
 - Stage 3 – initiate third-tier programs (and engage state/federal resources (e.g. emergency declarations, grant funds,))



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Response Strategies (cont.):

Stage 1 Examples

- Outreach and education
- Keep citizens informed on conditions
- Direct citizens to tools (e.g. like Tulare's 2-1-1)
- To landlords and property managers (actions and tenant's rights)
- Alert County management (resource needs)
- Alert appropriate state agencies



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Response Strategies (cont.): Stage 2 Examples

Similar to Stage 1, but with increased commitment of resources and greater data collection:

- Request emergency proclamation
- Extend well permit review timeline
- Expand staff and budget resources
- Trigger pre-established relationships with NGOs
- Trigger pre-established contracts with state agencies (e.g. assist with outreach, inspections, administration, and implementation)
- Secure state and federal emergency resource funds
- Require mandatory reduction in well production for all permitted wells
- Pursue state assistance could (emergency wells, bottled water, enforcing statutes)
- Increase frequency of monitoring of at-risk boundary areas to monthly




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Response Strategies (cont.): Stage 3 Examples

- Enforce renter's rights
- Seek state emergency declaration, if not already in place.
- Temporarily well permit/drilling moratorium
- Expand mandated reduction targets begun under Stage 2
- Further expand targeted outreach and education programs
- Increase access to assistance services
- Implement mutual aid agreements.
- Expand state assistance
- Implement temporary water programs
- Implement other health and safety actions
- Increase frequency of monitoring of at-risk boundary areas to weekly



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Next Steps

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